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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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## INFORMATION REPORT REPORT

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SUBJECT 1. The Calcined Soda Factory in Devnya  
2. The Georgi Dimitrov Rubber Factory in Sofia  
3. Zavod No. 12 in Sofia.

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The Calcined Soda Factory in Devnya

1. A calcined soda factory is under construction in Devnya (N4314 E2733) at a location 1,800 meters south of the railroad station; it is connected to the railroad station by a branch line.
2. Construction was begun in 1949 and is scheduled for completion by the end of 1952; however, it is not likely that the factory will be completed by that time.
3. The factory is being built for the Ministry of Heavy Industry by SOVBOLSTROI, the Soviet-Bulgarian construction firm. The cost of the project has been estimated at 2,400,000,000 leva for the factory buildings and 2,500,000,000 leva for the plant and installations. So far, the following sums have been spent: 30,000,000 leva in 1949, 80,000,000 leva in 1950, and 150,000,000 leva in 1951; the estimated expenditure in 1952 is 400,000,000 leva.
4. The factory will produce calcined soda ( $Na_2CO_3$ ) which is to be extracted from sodium chloride. The output will be made available to the glass industry and will also be used as a basic ingredient for the manufacture of all other types of sodas.
5. The calcium chloride used by the factory is available locally in a mine which was discovered after World War II. The mine, located near Provadiya, approximately 11 kilometers west of the factory, is the only salt mine in Bulgaria. Probing in the mine area have revealed the existence of reserves which will last for 100 years; the deposit is 100 meters deep and covers an area three to four kilometers in diameter. The salt is found 10 meters below ground level and is covered by a layer of argillaceous earth.

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- 2 -

6. The salt can be extracted either by the conventional method of shafts and workings or by sinking a water-tight shaft through the covering layer of earth. When the latter system is used, water is pumped into the shaft, allowed to become saturated, then pumped to the surface and delivered to the factory by a pipeline. Because of the drawbacks of the second system, i.e., infiltration of water into the shaft from the covering layer of earth which might compromise the whole scheme, the Soviets favor the conventional method in spite of its greater cost. No decision has yet been reached on the extraction system, partly because the Bulgarian government is not displaying any excessive speed about the project.

7. The pipeline which is to link the mine to the factory will be 11 kilometers long, of cast iron with a diameter of 300 millimeters, and has been ordered from the Soviet Union. The pipeline will utilize two pumping stations, one at the beginning and one in the center of the line. The difference in altitude between the mine and the factory is 70-80 meters.

The Georgi Dimitrov Rubber Factory in Sofia

8. The Georgi Dimitrov Rubber Factory, formerly known as the Bakish Factory, is located two or three kilometers beyond the northern outskirts of Sofia, adjoining the Ilyantsi Voenna Rampa (the transit station for military personnel).

9. The factory, which is subordinate to the Ministry of Light Industry, produces the following items:

- Tires: Produced under an American system and considered to be of very high quality; the specialized staff was trained by an American engineer after World War II; Soviets arriving in Bulgaria with their own vehicles remove their tires and replace them with the tires produced by the factory, which are of superior quality; and
- Rubber overshoes and boots.

10. The following are the sources of the principal raw materials used:

a. USSR, caoutchouc;

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c. Bulgaria, barium sulphate.

11. The entire output of the factory is available to the home market. No production figures are available, but it is estimated that this factory supplies one-third of all home market requirements.

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The Georgi Dimitrov Locomotive Plant in Sofia

12. Zavod No. 12, Lokomotiven Zavod Georgi Dimitrov, is subordinate to the Ministry of Defense. It is now controlled by the UVZ (Upravlenie Voenni Zavodi, Directorate of Military Establishments) on behalf of the Ministry of Heavy Industry.

13. The plant produces the following:

a. Motor vehicle chassis;

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- 3 -

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- b. Agricultural machinery;
- c. Storage batteries; and
- d. Flashlights.

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1. [redacted] Comment: Radio Sofia, 24 August 1952, reported that all auxiliary buildings of the soda plant have been completed. These buildings include garages, temporary storing houses, and workers' housing units; the woodworking and repair sections have also been completed and work is now under way on the actual soda plant. A large water system is to bring 150 liters of water per second from the Devnya wells. (FBIS 10 Sept. 1952)

[redacted]

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